

Stored Treasure

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What is treasure?

Oftentimes we understand the physical aspect of something but fail to see it in another dimension. We either see it two dimensional but not in its entirety. We all have heard the term treasure and for most of us our minds begin to image a chest filled with gold, silver, and jewels. And the value of what this chest contains is priceless. More than enough value of money to set us up for life. If you pictured this with us, then we are starting out on the same page. But Biblically what is treasure?

The old testament defines it as valued property or valued possessions.

The new testament defines it as anything laid up for storing, concerning wealth or the place where they are kept, a storehouse.

Hebrews 8:1–9 NLT

1 Here is the main point: We have a High Priest who sat down in the place of honor beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven. 2 There he ministers in the heavenly Tabernacle, the true place of worship that was built by the Lord and not by human hands. 3 And since every high priest is required to offer gifts and sacrifices, our High Priest must make an offering, too. 4 If he were here on earth, he would not even be a priest, since there already are priests who offer the gifts required by the law. 5 They serve in a system of worship that is only a copy, a shadow of the real one in heaven. For when Moses was getting ready to build the Tabernacle, God gave him this warning: “Be sure that you make everything according to the pattern I have shown you here on the mountain.” 6 But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises. 7 If the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second covenant to replace it. 8 But when God found fault with the people, he said: “The day is coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. 9 This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and led them out of the land of Egypt. They did not remain faithful to my covenant, so I turned my back on them, says the LORD.

Jesus is ordained as high priest because he was without sin. And His sacrifice became the standard of how we are made right with God. A new covenant establish because the old covenant required that we go through the motion...but the new covenant requires that we take heart in the motions. It's highlights the corresponding actions with the motive. Let's use for example. You have the thought of doing or performing a particular thing but if you never follow through with it then it was only a good idea...or a less an idea. We make new year's resolutions but if we don't put in the work then all they are is resolutions. An idea of how to make change happen but no actions to see the change manifest. The law became grace...simply because the heart of man.

So the example that we as humans needed was found in Jesus. The position of His heart was fully focused on God and establishing the Kingdom of God within the hearts of every person. So we have been commissioned with this same task to sacrifice ourselves and adopt the heart of God in every aspect of our life. Just like Moses was commanded to build the tabernacle exactly as the Lord had described and placed within his heart. We are to build his dwelling place as a replica of the throne room of Heaven. Or if we could put it this way...the place where our treasures are stored. The storehouse.

Isaiah 33:5-6 NLT

5 Though the LORD is very great and lives in heaven, he will make Jerusalem his home of justice and righteousness. 6 In that day he will be your sure foundation, providing a rich store of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge. The fear of the LORD will be your treasure.

God's Kingdom is in Heaven but he desires to make your heart His dwelling place. When His Kingdom is established in our hearts it will become an unshakeable foundation. It will be a Kingdom or a house that is built upon a rock. When that day comes it is a sure foundation. A storehouse where our treasures are stored. And what is found within this storehouse or treasure? Salvation, Wisdom, Knowledge, and the Fear of the Lord. These are the treasures of God that we are to be pursuing. Look at how Jesus approached the subject:

Matthew 6:19-24 TPT

19 "Don't keep hoarding for yourselves earthly treasures that can be stolen by thieves. Material wealth eventually rusts, decays, and loses its value. 20 Instead, stockpile heavenly treasures for yourselves that cannot be stolen and will never rust, decay, or lose their value. 21 For your heart will always pursue what you value as your treasure. 22 "The eyes of your spirit allow revelation-light to enter into your being. If your heart is unclouded, the light floods in! 23 But if your eyes are focused on money, the light

cannot penetrate and darkness takes its place. How profound will be the darkness within you if the light of truth cannot enter! 24 “How could you worship two gods at the same time? You will have to hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You can’t worship the true God while enslaved to the god of money!”

1. What types of treasures are we not to obtain? Materialistic things. Things that are man made or man influenced. These things are not eternal. They are only temporary, here for for a moment and gone the next. These are the very things that become idolized in our minds and hearts. Things that we say we can not live without.

2. Where are we not to store our treasures? In our hearts. It’s one thing thing to need money to survive but when we think more of our money over the obedience that God has called us to in being cheerful givers than allowing him to supply all of our needs then we have store our thought process over His commandment. When we refuse to push the plate away. When we refuse to pray. When we neglect to study and read His word. When we prolong the call upon our life. When we make it about us, we have not only been disobedient but our actions have said that “my needs, my feelings, my wants, my desires, my understanding, my comfortability is my priority”. I know that that saying didn’t feel good. But have we not been called to be well pleasing unto the Lord. What part of His Kingdom to we not understand? Is His Kingdom a democracy or a monarchy?

3. If our eyes are focused on any thing other than Heavenly treasures then our earthly treasures or desires leads us away from the heart of God.

Your heart follows what you value!

Colossians 2:2–3 NLT

2 I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God’s mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. 3 In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Paul shows us a perfect example of this in the book of Acts shortly after the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 4:32 NLT

32 All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.

We picture this as a group of people and that context is correct but if we could look into spirit realm we will see something so much deeper. In the previous verses they all had just been filled with the Holy Spirit. This is purposed to show the unity of how our heart and mind began to focus on the same goal. To be on accord with the Kingdom of God. And because our heart and mind come together in unison their purpose became one. When we bring our hearts and minds together...whether this is corporately or inwardly there is dynamic power that will very soon manifest. Pauls continues:

Acts 4:33–35 ESV

33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Great Power - dúnamis: Achieving power, meaning to make capable. This is where we get our english word dynamite. It is explosive power. It is earth shaken and mountain moving.

And because of the likeness of nature, having commonness, and being on one accord amongst each other great grace fell upon them all. When we experience or walk in this type of unison in our heart and mind with the Spirit of God we will witness this same type of great grace. We will bring our possessions that we have placed value on and lay it at the Lords feet as a sign of surrender.

When Jesus becomes your greatest treasure, the value of personal belongings (hopes, dreams, desires, ambitions, goals, or material possessions) diminishes significantly compared to the treasure within.

Matthew 13:44–45 NLT

44 "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. 45 "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls.

Ecclesiastes 6:7–9 NLT

7 All people spend their lives scratching for food, but they never seem to have enough. 8 So are wise people really better off than fools? Do poor people gain anything by being wise and knowing how to act in front of others? 9 Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don't have. Just dreaming about nice things is meaningless—like chasing the wind.

James 4:1–10 ESV

1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Wrong Passions or treasures that are contrary to the heart of God positions us on opposing teams. We seek for what our flesh desires but it is contrary to what the spirit desires. As verse 5 alludes that the spirit within you....yearns jealously...meaning that we are looking for satisfaction outside of the treasures that God has called us to which when spoke of in Isaiah 33. Salvation, Wisdom, and Knowledge. And the comprise of these treasures that we are told to pursue is the ultimate treasure of the Fear of The Lord.

Hebrews 11:24–27 NLT

24 It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of

enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward. 27 It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible.

In closing:

Matthew 19:16–21 NLT

16 Someone came to Jesus with this question: “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” 17 “Why ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments.” 18 “Which ones?” the man asked. And Jesus replied: “ ‘You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. 19 Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” 20 “I’ve obeyed all these commandments,” the young man replied. “What else must I do?” 21 Jesus told him, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

Final closing:

Galatians 6:7–10 NLT

7 Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. 8 Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. 9 So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up. 10 Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

